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Annals and Memoirs of the Court of Peking (from the 16th to the 20th Century). By E. BACKHOUSE and J. O. P. BLAND. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1914. Pp. x, 531.)

MESSRS. BACKHOUSE and Bland have given us another fascinating volume which every student of Chinese history and politics will wish to read. Purposing "to present a faithful picture of life at the Court of Peking" from the later years of the Ming Dynasty to the present, the authors have "not attempted to construct a consecutive chronological record . . . but only to present a series of impressions, taken from life" and to trace therein the "alternating causes of the national growth and decay" (preface, p. 10).

The major portion of the book consists of translations and summaries of excerpts from Chinese historians, annalists, essay writers, diarists, and pamphleteers. Some of these are frankly labelled fiction, others are listed as doubtful, while still others are presented as authentic and reliable history. They serve admirably to acquaint the reader with the leading motives, the loves and hatreds, the strength, the weakness, and the accidents which undid the Mings and made and unmade the Manchus.

To data of a directly political nature, much of which was accessible before, the authors have added, and into the whole they have put life. The book abounds in accounts of action and intrigue and in brilliant and intimate sketches of men and women, both famous and obscure. When we read the letters of the illustrious turn-coat, General Wu San-kuei, (ch. IV.), we find an old suspicion confirmed: "The Manchus owed their Dynasty, under Heaven, to a little singing girl." As we proceed, we find it fully demonstrated that the primary causes of the fall of each of the dynasties under discussion were the corruption and incompetence of its later monarchs, the licentiousness of these monarchs' courts, and the habit of entrusting the direction of affairs to eunuchs.

The Chien Lung and Chia Ch'ing documents give us new light on the Chinese attitude towards the Macartney and the Amherst missions. Told of the difficulties which beset the last regent, Prince Ch'un, we are ready to believe that, under some circumstances, a "Regent's life is not a happy one". Let those who believe that China is void of accumulated, movable wealth read the account of the treasures of Ho Shen, a quarter of whose estate was worth what would suffice to pay off the whole of the Boxer indemnity (pp. 364-367).

The equipment of the book includes a valuable genealogy (pp. 161-165) and a useful list of persons (pp. 1-8). Among errors: the view of the Forbidden City (opp. p. 268) was not taken "from the Coal Hill". It was from the Pai-t'a in the North Lake of the Winter Palace. The "posthumous" rather than the "reign" titles should have been used in several cases where Ming emperors are named.

The comparison of the massacre at Yangchowfu, in 1645, where a whole population was slaughtered, with the massacre of the Manchu garrison community at Sianfu, involving at most fifteen thousand persons, is not sound historically and conveys a wrong impression as to the conduct of the recent revolution.

Considering the title of the book, the animadversions with regard to Young China—which we must attribute to Mr. Bland—are scarcely in order. They involve, too, inconsistencies (compare pp. 15-16 with pp. 519-520). We are familiar with Mr. Bland's pessimism, but we are hardly prepared for such contempt for perspective as appears in the assertion, "The Government which Yuan Shih-K'ai is administering at Peking at this moment is no more republican than was that of Kublai Khan" (p. 518).

Mr. Backhouse is a sinologue of acknowledged authority. Mr. Bland is one of the most entertaining of publicists. Each has his opinions. It is well known in China that these do not always coincide. However we may agree or disagree with the opinions for which they become jointly responsible, what they furnish as history is most useful and their comments command attention and interest. The present work is not on the whole as consistent or convincing as was their *China under the Empress Dowager*. While it would be quite as useful and more satisfactory if some of its pages had been omitted, it will not irritate as did Mr. Bland's *Recent Events and Present Policies*. It constitutes a very valuable contribution to our literature concerning China.

STANLEY K. HORNBECK.

American and English Studies. By WHITELAW REID. In two volumes. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1913. Pp. xi, 316; 344.)

IN 1856, though then too young to vote, Whitelaw Reid took the stump for Frémont. From that time until his death nearly sixty years later at the post of ambassador to Great Britain, he was almost constantly in close contact with public affairs and alert and skillful both in the interpretation and in the evoking and shaping of public opinion.

His life-work was that of a journalist. The four studies grouped under the heading, "An Editor's Reflections", have an added interest from the fact that they span nearly thirty years. The first, *Journalism as a Career*, dates from the year (1872) in which Whitelaw Reid succeeded Horace Greeley as editor-in-chief of the *New York Tribune*. *Practical Issues in a Newspaper Office* (1879), *Recent Changes in the Press* (1901), and *Journalistic Duties and Opportunities* present acute analysis of important aspects of a rapidly changing profession and business enterprise. Of particular interest is his discussion of the thesis: "Not half enough libel suits are brought; and yet most of those that are brought are unjust" (II. 319-327).